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36587
16608-4 Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People !
YANKEE GO HOME !

NORTH VIETNAM

UP TO MAY 31, 1967

**1,984 U.S. PLANES
DOWNED**

VIETNAM

COURIER

INFORMATION WEEKLY - E.O. : 46 Tran Hung Dao Street - Hanoi - D. R. V. - Tel. 3841

June 5,

1967

No 113

4th Year

SOUTH VIETNAM L.A.F. UNPRECEDENTED VICTORIES IN WINTER 1966 - SPRING 1967

The L.A.F. :

Foiled Since the Beginning the "Two-Pincer" Strategic Plan of U.S. Dry-Season Counter-Offensive

PUT OUT OF ACTION

175,000 ENEMIES

**Including 70,000 G.I.s and
15,000 Satellite Troops**

**Wiped Out 49 Battalions and Similar Units, Including
28 U.S. Battalions and 1 South Korean Battalion**

**Downed and Destroyed 1,800 Planes and Helicopters,
3,985 Military Vehicles, 100 War Vessels and Motor
Boats and 340 Heavy Guns.**

"THE U.S. and puppet troops not only could not get out of their passive position in the strategic field but were driven to an ever more passive position in the field of operations and combat, their forces were stretched thin everywhere, the figure of 400,000 G.I.'s turned out to be not enough, the disposition of their troops was upset".

*(Excerpt from the communiqué
of the South Vietnam L.A.F. Command)*



Gunners of the L.A.F.

Ready to Rush Onward and Win Still Greater Victories

The great victories scored during the past Winter-Spring are creating for the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation of the Vietnamese people a very strong impulse forward; they are ready to prepare for new fights and win still greater victories.

With a hand-grenade,
Neuven van Dat destroys an M. 41 tank

SOUTH VIETNAM L.A.F. UNPRECEDENTED VICTORIES WINTER 1966-SPRING 1967

COMMUNIQUE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM L.A.F. COMMAND

TO date, our South Vietnam armed forces and people have been striving for seven months to carry out the appeal issued by the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation for a victorious Winter-Spring.

This was a period when the U.S. aggressors with the greatest numerical strength and abundance in weapons took the most frenzied and cruel acts in an attempt to implement a great perfidious

strategic plan dubbed the "two-pincer" plan.

But it was also a period when our South Vietnam armed forces and people, bringing into full play revolutionary heroism and overcoming great difficulties and obstacles, fought fierce battles and won unprecedentedly big victories:

1. According to still incomplete data, in seven months from October 1966 to April 1967, our South Vietnam armed forces and people annihilated 178,000 enemies

(70,000 U.S., 15,000 satellite and 90,000 puppet troops). The enemy units wiped out comprised 49 battalions and corresponding units, among them, 27 infantry battalions (8 U.S., 1 South Korean and 18 puppet battalions), 16 armored squadrons (15 U.S. and 1 puppet), 5 U.S. artillery battalions, 1 puppet engineer battalion, 230 companies, among them 225 infantry companies (71 U.S., 9 South Korean and 145 puppet), 3 U.S. artillery companies and 352 platoons.

The war means destroyed

by our armed forces and people included: 1,800 aircraft shot down or destroyed, 3,985 military vehicles of various types, among them, 1,785 armored cars, 100 ships and 1,000 launchers, 31 locomotives and 60 wagons destroyed.

Our armed forces and people also annihilated 200 military posts, 6 military sub-sectors, and destroyed nearly 270 bridges. In comparison with the Winter 1965-Spring 1966, the enemy casualties in the Winter 1966-

Spring 1967 increased by 60,000, the number of naval craft destroyed by nearly 4 times, that of armored vehicles destroyed increased by more than 5 times and a huge and if compared with the total enemy strength at the beginning of the Winter-Spring (September 1966), our armed forces and people annihilated nearly one fourth of U.S. and satellite troops, nearly one fifth of puppet troops, more than one fifth of the number of enemy battalions, nearly half the number of aircraft and nearly 70 percent of the number of armored cars.

2. By continual attacks and violent counter-attacks our armed forces and people smashed all enemy operations, big and small, and inflicted on the aggressors very heavy losses.

Right at the beginning and during the last Winter-Spring, the Liberation armed forces mounted powerful assaults, skillful ambushes and violent shellings on all theatres of operations. They wiped out many main force units of U.S., satellite and puppet troops. One enemy battalion after another was knocked out in the provinces of Quang Tri, Rach Gia, Quang Nam, Long An, Ben Tre, Thua Thien, Binh Dinh, Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Binh Thuan, Gia Dinh, Bac Lieu, The Dai Mot, Ba Ria, etc., not a single month passed without scores of enemy companies and platoons being wiped out.

3. Our armed forces made deep and strong thrusts in a series of logistic bases, airfields, stores, sectors, sub-sectors, provincial and district towns and positions which are part of enemy complexes of bases, annihilated many enemy effective and destroyed great quantities of war means: a major part of the enemy's rear areas offered thus no security and many highways were cut or threatened. 25 airfields were subjected to a total of 15 attacks. Enemy military bases in big cities, provincial towns and sub-sectors as Saigon, Hue, Bac Lieu, Ben Tre, Thu Dau Mot, Phan Thiet, Kontum, Hoi An, Quang Tri were the targets of attacks by our armed forces. It is to be noted that many of these side Saigon and in its periphery and the airbases of Ben Hoa and Tan Son Nhut were attacked, which resulted in heavy losses for the aggressors, the big ammunition depot in Long Binh and the navigation on the Long Tan river were attacked again and again, big amounts of ammunition and many naval craft were destroyed. The Pleiku and An Khe airfields were not spared. The airfields of Da Nang, Chu Lai and ammunition depots in Quang Nam were also subjected to repeated violent attacks which resulted in heavy damage.

The most salient feature is that our people and armed forces in Quang Tri, Thua Thien and many other places from the plain to the mountain areas launched continual

attacks on the enemy in his bases, venturing in contested areas or into our bases. We attacked the aggressors on highways and inflicted on them heavy defeats, driving them to a passive position and ignominious quagmire. To the great joy of our South Vietnam people and Liberation armed forces, the heroic People's Army powerfully shelled the U.S. heavy artillery positions in Gio Linh, knocking out thousands of U.S. aggressors, as punishment for their frantic artillery bombardments of the North.

Wherever the U.S. troops came and established an enclave, they fell at once into a network of arrows, bullets and booby traps of the guerrillas. The bells to wipe out G.I.'s are wearing down the American forces.

In addition to attacks on the enemy, our people and armed forces mounted violent counter-attacks. According to still incomplete figures from October 1966 to March 1967, the U.S. and puppet troops started thousands of operations involving enemy battalions or more in an attempt to destroy our bases and wear down the Liberation armed forces, and also to support the pacification teams. Besides, mention should be made of thousands of one-or-two-company operations. Most of these were prolonged and unprecedentedly fierce ones.

In particular, many operations were carried out on the largest scale. In addition to 60 operations of division size, the enemy launched three operations of field-army corps size. In all important operations, the U.S. troops played the main role while the puppet troops entrusted with auxiliary duties accounted only for 10 to 30 per cent of the total strength involved. Recently the U.S. aggressors trampling underfoot international law

made a new serious step in intensifying and expanding the war: they sent some tens of thousands of troops into the demilitarized zone, south of the Ben Hai river, to massacre our countrymen and children to be brought back, and to the North.

However all the operations conducted by the U.S. and satellite troops were defeated by the combined action of our main force units, regional troops and guerrillas. It is noteworthy that our armed forces and people dealt them the most telling blows and inflicted on them the heaviest losses right in the areas considered to be the most important ones, where they mustered big forces and big amounts of war means, and nurtured great ambitions: the area north of Saigon, the plains of Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh, the St. Thuy river valley in the High Plateaux, the northern part of Quang Tri province, etc. In particular, north of Saigon in the so-called "iron triangle" and war zone C, the enemy launched successive major operations but all were defeated: *Attleboro*, *Cedar Falls*, *Golden*, *Tricking* and *Judith City*. The last operation which was the biggest and most important one in the last dry season as well as in the whole process of the war ended in the heaviest and most thorough defeat the enemy has ever sustained.

Confronted everywhere with the continual attacks and counterattacks of our armed forces and people, the U.S. and puppet troops not only could not get out of their passive position in the strategic field but were driven to an ever more passive position in the field of operations and combat, their forces were stretched thin everywhere, the figure of 400,000 G.I.'s turned out to be not enough, the disposition of their troops was upset.

They planned to bring one U.S. division into the Mekong delta, but managed to set in only one brigade. Several U.S. brigades dispatched from the High Plateaux to the plains of Central Trung Bu had to be brought back. Three U.S. brigades which had just suffered heavy losses at the hands of our armed forces and people in Central Trung Bu and Eastern Nam Bo had to move hurriedly to Quang Nam and Quang Ngai, from where the U.S. marines were sent to Quang Tri and Thua Thien to be beaten by our armed forces and people.

3. Our armed forces and people defeated the rural "pacification" programme to which the U.S. aggressors and their puppet allies the greatest importance in 1967. Under enemy plans, 90 per cent of the puppet army, part of U.S. and satellite troops and big amounts of money are to be devoted to this end and the programme is to be carried out in an extensive and perfidious way, closely combining military attacks with rural pacification. Their purpose was to destroy the guerrilla movement, to wreck our political bases, to win over the population, to occupy part of our densely populated and rich liberated areas, to cause additional difficulties to our resistance war, and at the same time to gain some political and military assets. In this rural pacification campaign, the U.S. satellite and puppet troops have acted in the most savage and inhuman manner, which aroused indignant condemnation from the whole of mankind. In some places they conducted operations involving tens of thousands of troops to forcibly regroup the people. They used all kinds of barbarous weapons to massacre and intimidate civilians and destroy their means of livelihood: 352's, steel pellet

bombs, napalm, phosphorous and magnesium bombs, flame throwers, toxic chemicals, etc. They burnt down whole forests, razed to the ground entire villages and districts, towed away with bombs and bulldozers, exposing hundreds of thousands of our countrymen to misery and diseases. Marching behind the bayonets and rifles of the U.S., puppet and satellite troops are 40,000 pacification agents, with their deception, terrorization and coercion. But the brute force of the enemy was unable to shake the dauntless spirit of the heroic South Vietnamese people and the valiant Liberation armed forces. On the contrary, with the increased vigour instilled by deep hatred, the people and armed forces meted out to them well-deserved punishment. We inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in the course of many operations of support for pacification teams. In Operation *Cedar Falls*, 3,000 U.S. troops were annihilated mainly by the reports of regional troops, militiamen and guerrillas. In Ben Tre, Long An and My Tho, our people and armed forces inflicted heavy losses on the U.S. aggressors. Recently the U.S. and puppet troops who entered the southern part of the demilitarized zone to herd the people suffered 2,000 casualties in only 4 days. By using puppet troops for "pacification" work, the U.S. aggressors nourished the hope that they might escape the fierce blows of our armed forces but over the last 7 months, 20 puppet battalions and 145 puppet companies were wiped out. Our people and armed forces, especially regional troops and guerrillas have combined armed activities with political struggle and political agitation among enemy troops and annihilated many pacification agents and teams. According to still incomplete figures, in 3 months (from December 1966 to February 1967), we wiped out about 5,000 of them. Many compatriots who had been forcibly settled in enemy-controlled areas left the concentration camps to return to their native villages. In the Mekong Delta, a U.S. priority target for pacification, our countrymen still live and fight dauntlessly under the banner of the National Front. Generally speaking, although the enemy could at times and in some places cause difficulties to our compatriots in their life and production work, the whole enemy's programme of rural pacification has sustained heavy failure. Our liberated areas are still maintained, and even broadened in Quang Tri and Thua Thien. The U.S. rulers in Saigon and Washington have had to admit this defeat.

In a word, over the last 7 months, the U.S. aggressors tried to take advantage of the dry season which offered very favorable conditions for their military activities. They used 400,000 U.S. troops, double the figure for the last dry season along with big quantities of modern weapons to strike at us in numerous fields in an attempt to win significant successes to reverse the tide which was more and more unfavourable to them, to secure a position of advantage to impose on us a surrender and the framework of a formal settlement or to go on intensifying and extending the war of aggression. But the greater their ambitions, the heavier more acute their defeat. Their "two-pincer" plan has sustained initially heavy failure. Their hopes have been frustrated, their situation is worsening, they have been driven to more passive positions and are seriously bogged down. The pursuit of their "two-pincer" plan is encountering more and more difficulties.

In contrast, during the last Winter-Spring, enlisting the North, our great rear to which we are linked by ties of close union, and coordinating our activities with it, our South Vietnam people and armed forces showed a very firm determination; they did not flinch at acute difficulties, they fought bravely, launched continual attacks and recorded the most glorious feats of arms. We have won initial victories against both enemy strategic schemes as embodied in their "two-pincer" plan. We have won initial victories against the enemy strategic forces consisting of nearly one million U.S., satellite and puppet troops, along with all their strategy and tactics. We have won initial victories against enemy infantry, modern weapons and technical means and all new tricks of theirs. Our forces are getting ever stronger and more powerful as the fight goes on.

THE U.S. aggressors are still stubborn and are hatching many new schemes. They will intensify and extend the war at an accelerated tempo, 1967 is of the most important significance in the resistance of our people and armed forces. Let the Liberation armed forces—main force units, regional troops and guerrillas—realize this significance and pushing forward their victories, launch continual attacks on the enemy, completely smash his "two-pincer" plan, and win even greater victories for the sake of the lofty and sacred cause of liberating the South, defending the North and achieving national reunification.

Guerrillas making spiked pits.



•3,000 G.I.'s Put Out of Action at KHE SANH •2 Puppet Battalions Wiped Out in CHO LON and QUANG TRI

KHE SANH

3,000 G.I.'s Put Out of Action

GPX (L.P.A.) reports that in the successive engagements at Khe Sanh (Quang Tri province) from April 24 to May 21, 1967, the L.A.F. put out of action 3,000 enemies (including 2,580 G.I.'s killed) and captured many others, downed 11 planes, destroyed 13 military vehicles and 3 ammunition dumps and seized a big quantity of arms and war materials.

In particular, on Hills 861 and 881 the number of U.S. casualties was 3,000 Marine. Regiments No 3 and 9 were beaten hollow and the effectiveness of their companies were reduced by 50 per cent. Day and night, helicopters made an aerial bridge between Khe Sanh - Dong Ha and Phu Bai to pick up G.I. corpses. At Phu Bai alone, up to 700 G.I.s corpses were put into ponches in a day and piled up to be shipped to the U.S.A.

QUANG TRI

One Enemy Battalion Put out of Action

ON May 20, after a 20 minutes' engagement, the L.A.F. swiftly wiped out the C.P. of a relief company, 2 infantry companies, decimating another infantry company, killing or wounding 250 enemy troops, capturing 50 others pertaining to Battalion 3. Regiment 1, Division 1 of the puppet army garrisoned 6 kilometres east of (Quang Tri provincial capital).

HUE

Powerful Attack on the Centre of the City

ON May 29, 1967 the L.A.F. launched several waves of powerful attacks on the centre of Hue, a major city in the northernmost part of South Vietnam, according to Western sources. The L.A.F. pounded the residential quarter of the American advisers, the C.P. of the puppet army sub-sector, a club reserved for officers and other military services. The shelling damaged the wire of the Voice of America relaying post. The L.A.F.'s shock troops directly assaulted the Huong Giang Hotel, the biggest in Hue reserved for the G.I.'s, 60 per cent of the building was destroyed, U.P.I. reported.

QUANG NAM

Long-Term Counter-Raid: 3,000 Raiders Put out of Action

BETWEEN April 21 and May 13, the L.A.F. countered a long-term

enemy operation to "pacify" the Western part of Quang Nam, and put out of action after several waves nearly 3,000 enemy troops mostly U.S. marines, shot down 33 planes or helicopters and seized quantity of arms.

PLEIKU

ON the morning of May 29, the L.A.F. intercepted and wiped out nearly a company of some 150 G.I.'s of U.S. Infantry Division 4 operating west of Pleiku. According to the U.S. military spokesman in Saigon this is the 6th attack by the L.A.F. on that infantry division within the past 9 days.

CHO LON

One Puppet Battalion Wiped out, 5 Positions Razed to the Ground

TO defend their life-line between Chu Lai and Da Nang, the U.S. deployed quite a big force on this section of Highway 1. On a 7-kilometre portion from the Ba Ren bridge to the Ru Ri bridge (15km southeast of Da Nang) they set up three strongholds: Ba Ren, Moe Bai and Huong An.

In addition, the U.S. and puppet troops launched frequent "search and destroy" raids along the road in an attempt to check the activities of the regional forces and guerrillas who had over and again cut the road in many places and harassed enemy patrols, causing frequent interruptions to the enemy traffic.

IN the small hours of May 14, the L.A.F. in Cho Lon attacked 5 positions of Battalion 2, puppet Division 25, of a security company and a platoon of "pacification cadres". After a 12 minutes' fight, the L.A.F. completely annihilated this battalion, killing or wounding 250 enemies, including a major, commander and the deputy commander of the said battalion and 4 American advisers. This is the 4th battalion wiped out in Cho Lon since early 1967.

TRA VINH - VINH LONG

IN 17 days, between April 24 and May 13, the guerrillas and regional forces of Tra Vinh and Vinh Long provinces razed to the ground 14 positions and forced the enemy to withdraw from there, killed or wounded 208 puppet troops. The population in this area rose up to destroy the "strategic hamlets". More 5,000 people were liberated.

NORTH VIETNAM

THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE FORCES VIE WITH EACH OTHER IN SHOOTING DOWN THE 2000th U.S. PLANE

HAIPHONG Downs the 100th Plane

OF late the Command of the A.A. defence and air force has launched an emulation drive for the downing of U.S. aircraft on the spot and the 2,000th American plane in the North. The unit which will down the greatest number of planes since the 1,000th plane downed on May 17 will be commended together with the unit that will down the 2,000th plane. This decision

has received the warm response from all A.A. defence forces in all localities of North Vietnam.

Between August 5, 1964 and May 31, 1967, 1,084 American planes were shot down over the North.

Also in this shooting emulation movement, Haiphong brought down on May 26, 2 planes which were the 100th and 101st planes downed by this city.

Many American War Vessels Set Afire

OVER the last few days, many American war vessels which came and shelled the seacoast of North Vietnam were set afire by the coastal defence batteries of the V.P.A.

On May 24 Vinh Linh set afire 1 war vessel.

On May 25 Vinh Linh and Quang Binh set afire 2 war vessels.

On May 25 Ha Tinh sank 1 commando ship.

On May 26 Thanh Hoa set afire 1 war vessel.

On May 27 Vinh Linh damaged the destroyer *Edson* of 2,850 tons, injuring 10 Yankees on board, according to Western reports. The same news agencies reported that the American vessel burnt on May 25 by Vinh Linh coastal defence was the destroyer *Providence*.

On May 29, Thanh Hoa damaged another American war vessel.

Since February 26, 1967, American war vessels have been set on fire 32 times and many commando ships sunk

BA REN - HUONG AN, CEMETERY OF U.S. ARMoured CARS

On March 24, 1967 a convoy of 200 U.S. military trucks went from Chu Lai to Da Nang, carrying weapons and equipment to reinforce the U.S. defence of this major base.

Because of the importance of this supply mission the U.S. commanders had taken all precaution to ensure its

safety. From early morning U.S. and puppet troops from the strongholds along the road had been sent out for patrol while U.S. reconnaissance planes scoured the area over and over again. They even took a measure of diversion by sending an advanced convoy of about 30 vehicles. This convoy met

with no resistance. Yet the U.S. commanders were far from feeling secure. They sent Battalion 3, puppet Regiment 51 to take up position at the Ba Ren bridge, reinforced the puppet garrison at Thanh Binh district capital (4 km south-east of Huong An) and ordered the artillery units at Thanh Binh and Duy Xuyen posts to stand at the ready to provide cover for the on-coming convoy. In the skies scores of American aircraft including armed reconnaissance planes and jet fighters roared back and forth to detect any possible movement of the L.A.F. and also to keep up the morale of the troopers in the convoy. To make it surer, they also sent mine detectors and high-pressure tankers to go some distance ahead of the convoy, followed by armoured cars and support units. An engineer battalion of puppet Army Corps 1 was on the look-out, ready to repair any possible damage to the bridge and road.

With such precautions the U.S. thought it could make safe travel on the most dangerous portions of the road from Chu Lai and Da Nang and reach destination before nightfall. But they met with a stinging rebuff. The local guerrillas and regional armed forces right from the outset gave combat to the armoured column, causing it to slow down considerably and move with great difficulty until it fell into an ambush laid by the Liberation Armed Forces at the time chosen by the latter.

At 17.30 hrs the leading car struck a mine as it reached the southern edge of



Armoured car destroyed

(Continued page 7)